



# CrimeWatch

Spring Edition

May 2001

"EXCELLENCE IN PROTECTION"



## VACATION SECURITY TIPS

Discontinue newspaper and other deliveries by phone or in person ahead of time. Do not leave notes.

Arrange for lawn care and have someone remove advertising circulars and other debris regularly.

**FPS**

OKLAHOMA CITY - 1995



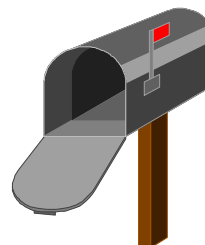
FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE  
"FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS"

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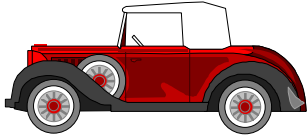
Notify the Post Office to forward your mail or have a trustworthy person pick it up daily. Apartment house tenants could also heed this tip, as stuffed mail receptacles are a giveaway that nobody is home.



Inform neighbors of your plans to go on vacation so

they can be extra alert for suspicious persons.

Ask a neighbor to park one of their cars in your driveway so it looks like someone is home.



Leave a key with the neighbor who is going to be the primary "watcher of your home" so they have access.



Your house should never have a closed-down appearance. A burglar will search for a house that during the day has all the draperies pulled tight, all the shades pulled, or all the venetian blinds closed. Ask your neighbor to open your blinds and/or drapes, etc. during the day and close them at night. Ask them to turn your exterior lights on at night and off during the day. Place a radio by the back door and/or front door. Set

the dial to a 24-hour talk station.



Ask your neighbor to turn on the radio at night. Be sure it is turned up loud enough to be heard from the outside of your back door. This is also not a bad idea (psychological deterrent) if you're just going out for a shopping trip, evening out or away for the weekend.

If you have not installed exterior motion security lighting; consider doing so.

Periodically check in with your neighbor or leave a number where you can be reached if there is an emergency situation back home.

**NOW RUN OFF  
AND ENJOY  
THAT WELL  
DESERVED  
VACATION!**



**GSA Office of  
Inspector General**

**From: GSA INFO on  
03/01/2001 03:56 PM EST  
Sent by: GSA Info**

**To: All R10 Users**

**Subject: Identity Theft**

**MEMORANDUM FOR  
GSA EMPLOYEES**

**FROM: WILLIAM R.  
BARTON**

**INSPECTOR GENERAL**

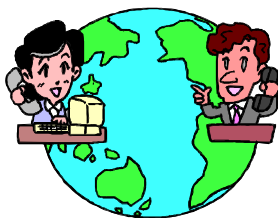
**SUBJECT: Identity Theft**



The Office of Inspector General is seeing an increase in incidents of identity theft involving GSA employees. As a result we are sending this message in an attempt to help protect you and your families.

Identity theft generally involves using someone's personal identifiers, without their permission, for fraudulent or criminal reasons. Examples of identity theft are using someone's Social Security Number or drivers license number to obtain a job, create new credit accounts, change current credit card accounts to a new address, and order

cell phones, rental cars and other services or goods illegally.



Every day we provide personal information to strangers that could lead to the theft of our identity. We give strangers checks, credit card numbers, Social Security Numbers, dates of birth, and addresses. We give this information to stores, churches, work, schools, and doctors. Once given we have lost control of its use. Where possible we must be careful to protect this information; but where we must provide it, we need to make sure it isn't being abused.

### **How can you protect yourself?**

Carry only those cards and documents you reasonably need. Your purses and wallets provide all the information necessary for your identity to be stolen.



Don't provide information over the telephone to people you don't know, particularly when using cordless and cellular telephones. As a basic rule - if you haven't initiated the call don't give the information. Make sure office files containing this information are secured. Travel vouchers and time records contain personal identifiers.

Take the time to perform a check of your credit (contact information is listed at the end of this memorandum). Many states afford you a free copy of your credit report each year. Performing this check is up to you, but it is the best way to discover if there is a problem before it ruins your credit. Look for unfamiliar charge or bank accounts, unexplained queries of your credit, unknown cellular telephones or other services, and address changes on your report. These are all indications of potential problems. Take the time to review your

monthly credit card statements for unexplained charges, and be alarmed if you missed a credit card statement.



If you see indications of identity theft, contact the credit bureaus and any credit card providers or services listed. Keep notes on all your contacts and reports to credit and charge companies. The credit bureaus will help you place notices in your credit file to explain negative information that may result from your victimization. If necessary they will also help you put a watch or alert in your credit file, to preclude additional fraudulent credit or charges being placed against you. You should also file a police report.

If there is reason to believe that the situation is related to your employment with GSA, we ask you contact your regional Office of Investigations for the Office of Inspector General. Call (202) 501-1937 to find the correct office to contact.

Request credit reports or report suspicious activity through the following contacts:

• Equifax -  
WWW.EQUIFAX.COM  
–Requests: PO Box  
740241, Atlanta, GA  
30374-0241  
(1-800-685-1111)

–Report Fraud: PO Box  
105496, Atlanta, GA  
30348-5496  
(1-800-997-2493)

• Experian -  
WWW.EXPERIAN.COM  
–Requests: PO Box 949,  
Allen, TX 75013-0949 (1-  
888-397-3742)

–Report Fraud: PO Box  
2104, Allen, TX 75013-  
2104 (1-888-397-3742)

• Trans Union -  
WWW.TRANSUNION.COM

–Requests: PO Box 390,  
Springfield, PA 19064-  
0390  
(1-800-916-8800)

–Report Fraud:  
PO Box 390, Springfield,  
PA 19064-0390  
(1-800-680-7289)

For further information  
check out the Federal  
Trade Commission  
Website at  
<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/index.html>. You can  
also go to GSA's Federal  
Consumer Information  
Center and read the

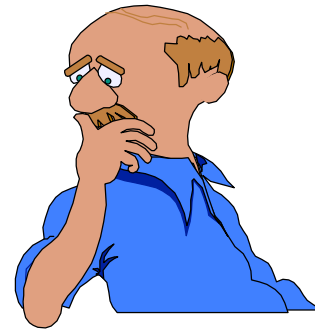
publication, "ID Theft:  
When Bad Things Happen  
To Your Good Name"  
([http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic\\_text/money/idtheft/idtheft.htm](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/money/idtheft/idtheft.htm)).

**FPS EXTENDS A  
SPECIAL CRIMEWATCH  
THANK-YOU TO THE  
COCHIN, INDIA  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
FOR THE FOLLOWING  
CRIME PREVENTION  
TIPS.**



### **Whether your home is safe?**

How do you feel when you  
return to your home and  
find your house burgled?  
You feel outraged, violated  
and vulnerable. You feel  
that there is no safety in  
this place and you curse  
your luck and system  
prevailing. You call police  
and complain to them and  
if they are not able to find  
your stolen property then  
you feel frustrated.



It is a common thing that  
some times the entire  
family has to go out after  
locking the house. So  
when you are out the fear  
of burglary is always lurking  
in your mind. Now the  
question is whether a  
burglary can be  
prevented?

### **Burglary**

Burglary is a non-  
confrontational crime. The  
burglars enter in the house  
when nobody is there. But  
this crime makes us totally  
insecure and unsafe. We  
may lose the earnings of  
our entire life. We may  
lose the valuable  
ornaments and other  
precious materials in the  
house, which the family  
had been collecting and  
storing for years together.

### **How to prevent burglary?**

In order to prevent burglary  
it is important to  
understand who commits  
this crime? When it

happens? Why it happens?



Burglaries are committed generally by the young males looking for things, which are small, expensive, and can easily be converted into ready cash. jewelry, cameras, VCR, television, radio, cash, watches, guns, small electronic items are high on the burglar's list. Most of the burglary takes place in the houses where inmates are absent temporarily. It may happen during the daytime as well as during the nighttime. In cities where both the spouses are working and children go to school are in the high risk of burglary. It is often found that before committing the burglary the burglar selects a house that is unoccupied with easiest access, the greatest amount of cover, with best possible escape routes.



What you have to do is to make your house so difficult for the potential burglars so that the burglar cannot imagine entering in your house. So follow the following tips to prevent house burglary.

Keep your doors locked and windows covered even in daytime.

Properly check whether the doors and windows of your house are closed and locked when you are going out.

Fix grills on windows and glass paneled doors.

Keep side doors pad locked and main door bolted.

Use slam-shut locks instead of padlocks.

Install magic eye and safety chains on doors. Look through the magic eye and ensure the door chain is secure, before opening the door to a stranger.

Leave a light burning when you go out of town.



Inform your neighbors about your absence from your home for a long or short period.

Insure all valuable properties like VCR, TV etc.

Mark valuables with an identification number like your Ration Card, Passport or Driving license number.

Provide lights on the exit points of your house.

Install an alarm system and learn how to use it.

Monitor your alarm system and arrange for guard response.

Stow away ladders and tools.

Make your home appear lived in.

Don't keep huge amount of cash and ornaments in the house.



Use Bank lockers.

Don't keep the keys of the receptacles in which the valuables are kept in the keyhole or nearby places.

Don't sleep near an open window during the night. A burglar could snatch the ornaments from you.

Keep your bedroom locked from inside.

Don't disturb the scene, if you notice theft in your house, wait for the arrival of police otherwise it will lead to tampering of evidence like fingerprints, footprints etc.

Don't allow any stranger to enter your house, when you are alone without finding out his identity.

Beware of persons coming to your house under the pretext of repairing/selling things, conducting meter readings etc.

### **How to Prevent Bag Snatching While Travelling?**

Don't wear heavy ornaments while travelling alone.

Don't open your bag-containing valuable like cash and ornaments, while travelling in public places.



Don't go alone with cash and jewelry during the nighttime.

Do not record a message on answering machine telling people you are on holiday or away.

### **Steps For Personal Safety**

Always stop and think about the risk.

Always identify a visitor before opening the door.

Never allow young children to open the door to visitors.

Always ask representatives to provide identification.

Avoid walking alone at night.

Walk in busy well-lit roads, towards traffic.

### **Beware Of Unverified Workers in Your House**

Get your domestic help's antecedents verified.

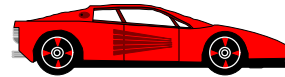
Give his/her photograph as well as address to the nearest Police Station for verification.

Get his/her background verified from previous employer.

Avoid giving access to his relatives and friends.

Avoid displaying jewelry and valuables in the house.

### **Prevent Vehicle Theft**



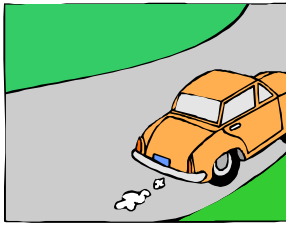
Don't keep vehicles in your house compound without locking.

Two wheelers should be kept in the safe places after tying with a chain and lock.

When you park your vehicle in the parking area, ask somebody to keep an eye over it.

Never leave the vehicle door unlocked. Nor the windows partially open. Make sure that quarter glasses are properly secured.

Never leave the key dangling in the ignition.



Double-check all doors (including the boot) to ensure that they are properly secured.

Etch registration number of your car on the rear & front window screens and windowpanes.

Do not leave valuables in your car even if it is locked.

Cut down on extra fittings, as these tempt prospective thieves.

Install a car alarm.

Never leave important documents in the glove box or boot.

Never identify your key ring with your name.

Do not offer a lift to anyone you do not know.

If someone needs assistance, stop some distance away and communicate through locked doors and partially opened window. Always stay in the car with the engine running. Tell them you will send help.



**Editors Note: It seems that crime and crime prevention techniques are pretty much the same the world over.**



**“QUOTES” ON AGE:**

The Crecian ladies counted their age from their marriage, not from their birth.\_\_Homer.

As we grow old we become both more foolish and more wise.\_\_Rochefoucauld.  
Let us respect gray hairs, especially our own.\_\_J. P. Senn.

Gray hairs seem to my fancy like the soft light of the moon, silvering over the evening of life.\_\_Richter.

A person is always startled when he hears himself seriously called old for the first time.\_\_O. W. Holmes.

**Quotes taken from the Dictionary of Thoughts, A Cyclopedia of Laconic Quotations from the best authors of the world, both ancient and modern\_\_copywrite 1904**

**DRUNK DRIVERS** *are not survivors!*

**STAY ALIVE,**



**PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.**

**THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE IS 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) AND THE TDD NUMBER FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED IS 1-800-787-3224. “HELP BUILD**

**AWARENESS AND PREVENT  
VIOLENCE.”**



## **THE SEATTLE- WESTERN WASHINGTON TEAM**

**SERVING WESTERN  
WASHINGTON**

**REPORT ALL  
SUSPICIOUS  
ACTIVITIES TO THE  
FEDERAL  
PROTECTIVE  
SERVICE**

**The following Federal  
Protective Service  
employees are available  
to help you.**

**Chief, Protection Operations  
Northern District**

- Karen Gaston (253) 931-7838

**Lead Physical Security  
Specialist**

- Jim Carnegie (253) 931-7257  
**Physical Security Specialists**



- Smokey Forster  
(206) 220-6636
- Dave White  
(253) 931-7870
- Darryl Rabb  
(253) 931- 7323

**Physical Security Specialist**

(Tacoma)

- Fredaline Healy  
(253) 593-6749

**Contract Guard COR's**

- Tammy Straessle  
(253) 931-7347
- Mike Whitaker  
(253) 931-7226

**Criminal Investigators**



- Steve Slagowski:  
(503) 326-5541
- Darrell Souza:  
(503) 326-5488

**Electronic Equipment Specialist**



- Bob Griffin (206) 220-5087

**Federal Police Officers**



(206) 764-6725/26

- Maj. Don Laughlin
- Sgt. John Haverly
- Sgt. Odell Mefford
- Officer Rick Day:
- Officer Larry McConnell:
- Officer Rich Reilley
- LESO Pat Zitny:

**NEW DISPATCH NUMBER**

**888-280-3405 - 24 hours**

**If you have a problem with  
non-security related items we  
can direct you to the  
appropriate GSA employee.**

**Federal Protective Service GSA  
Center  
400 15<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Auburn, WA 98001  
(253) 931-7838**

**Federal Protective Service  
Federal Office Building  
909 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Rm B-99  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 220-6636**